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SECRET

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT: ~~RAIL~~ Freight Bypass Around Berlin

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. Additional efforts will be made to carry out all the construction projects of the Reichsbahn in the so-called "Ring around Berlin" in the Potsdam Bezirk before the end of 1955.
2. This applies especially to the so-called "Southern Outer Freight Ring" bypass, which will be for heavy freight trains and will allow speeds up to 180 kilometers per hour.
3. In 1955 and 1956, a total of 22 railroad bridges over streets, bodies of water, and waterways are to be built in the Potsdam Bezirk. These projects were all approved by the State Planning Commission during the week of 10 April 1955. The most important of these projects is the bridge over the Templiner See, which will be built from a point east of the Templin forester's house* (on the southeast side of the lake) to a point west of the Seekrug seaplane base (on the northwest side). The amount needed to build this bridge is estimated at 5,500,000 DME. There will be considerable difficulty connected with the building of this bridge because there is about 80 centimeters of putrid mud (Faualschlamm) on the bottom of the Templiner See. The abutments (Widerlager) and piers (Pfeiler) will apparently be built on a floating foundation (Schwimmende Gruendung). It will be of bar steel (Stahlstab) construction, with four supporting piers. The bases of the approaches are to be 170 meters wide. The swampy land will have to be dynamited in order to make it possible to build the foundations for the approaches, and there is great danger of filling up the shipping channel in the lake through this dynamiting. The filling work for the approaches is in preparation. The earth needed for the filling work is to be brought from the Ravensberge, which lie between the bridge site and the Rehbruecke railroad station. The Ravensberge will be almost completely levelled for this purpose.

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* Note: Forsthaus Templin

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4. The new bridge will, according to the ~~long-range plan~~,¹ take 120 trains per day in one direction and will shorten the trackage enough that it will pay for itself in 25 years by eliminating three kilometers of excess trackage in the ring around Berlin.
5. Another bridge is to be built at ~~Boetzen~~ south of Velten, in 1956. The Ministry of the Interior ~~has~~ ordered ~~the~~ building of this bridge and the bridge will be a part of ~~the ring~~ around Berlin.

1.  Comment: Perspektiv-Plan.

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